

**YOUTH
ENGAGEMENT
NETWORK**
an etr. project

Five Principles for Engaging Youth in SRH Programming: From the Voice of Youth

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YEN

Objectives

By the end of the session...

- List the basic steps of the group concept mapping process.
- Explain at least 2 of the 5 Principles of Youth Voice and Meaningful Engagement
- Describe one challenge, one idea for application, and one capacity building need for at least one principle.
- Discuss one starting point for moving the principles to practice.



Reflection

Think about your sexual health education. How engaged did you feel? What would have made it better?

Think about what you experience or know about sexual health education today. How well are doing at elevating youth voice?



Youth Engagement Network (YEN) Overview

YEN

Tier 2 Innovation and Impact Networks

- **Funder:** Office of Population Affairs
- **Grant Program:** Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP)
- **Funding Goal:** Network of partners to develop and test **innovative interventions** in seven key priority areas
- **Project Period:** July 2020-July 2023

YEN Goals

To make a measurable impact on meaningful and equitable youth engagement in sexual health programs.



Coordination of partners



Research on practices that meaningfully engage and give voice to youth



Meaningful Youth Engagement

- True shared power between youth and adults
- Young people
 - are valued and treated as experts
 - have a role in design delivery, and evaluation of programs created for them
 - have voice in factors that affect their lives
- More than just participation



What words do you use to describe meaningful youth engagement in the work you do?

What is a useful framework/conceptual model for MYE?

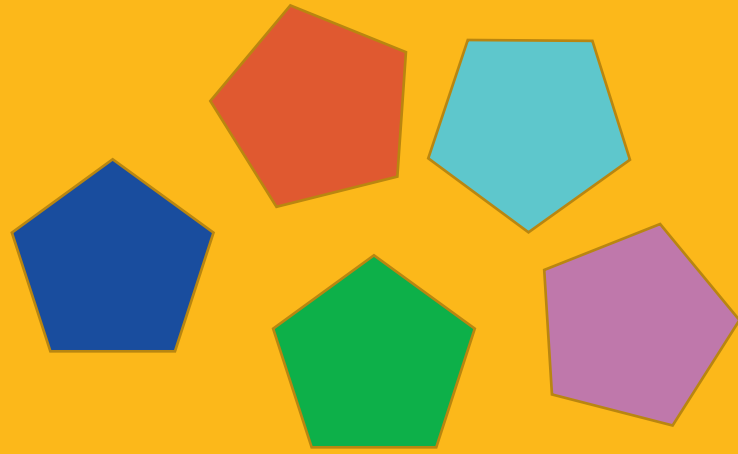


- **Useful** for developers and implementers.
- **Add to** and not just duplicate.
- Explore if different for **each priority population**.
- A **data-driven** and **tested** process.
- Significant **youth involvement**.

Group Concept Mapping

GCM

YEN



**Group Concept
Mapping (GCM)
is...**

**A structured, step-by-step
process that can be used to
dig deeply into a topic to:**

- Develop theory
- Create a program
- Develop measures or outcomes
- Prioritize activities or steps toward a specific goal

The Process of GCM



Imagine that you are creating a program that will help young people learn how to take care of their sexual health. What does this program look like when you want young people to feel...

- Like they are important.
- Engaged and committed.
- Involved in the design.
- Empowered to care for their sexual well-being.

You want a program that is interesting, exciting, and meaningful for all young people. Think especially about what works for LGBTQ youth of color, young men of color, youth who live in rural communities, and youth who may not typically want to be a part of these programs.

A way to
help
young
people
feel
engaged
is...



74 Brainstorming log-ins

141 responses (170 total statements)

Focus Prompt: A way to help young people feel engaged is:

For example:

- 1 Having facilitators/educators be from the youths' communities.
- 24 Using examples from pop culture that relate to the youth (e.g., highlighting celebrity relationships that show both positive and negative experiences) as a starting point for discussions.
- 55 Establishing norms that are not just heteronormative or cis-focused (e.g., using gender neutral words, focusing on behaviors vs. sexual orientation, diversity of relationship examples).
- 79 Expanding talk about condoms to include all barrier methods to be more relevant to queer communities.

← Sorting

Cards

- 31
⋮ improve new employee orientation and training
- 78
⋮ look for small organizations we might partner with
- 63
⋮ examine managed care health plans as an alternative to current health insurance
- 55
⋮ reduce middle management -- make organizational structure more horizontal
- 74
⋮ hire outside support to do routine administrative tasks wherever possible
- 15
⋮ develop in-house computer network for management staff



6 of 80 statements sorted

FOCUS PROMPT: A specific action that the North County Department of Social Services could implement over the next five years to improve its

⌵ Expand All | ⌶ Collapse All

⋮ Infrastructure



- 26
⋮ purchase more vans to enable efficient access to programs
- 20
⋮ computerize all phases of the program management system
- 1
⋮ advertise the organization's image rather than just specific programs

⋮ Unnamed pile 2



⋮ Benefits



- 47
⋮ do program-wide comparative salary analysis
- 14
⋮ start a program to reduce employee absenteeism and turnover
- 11
⋮ develop better strategy for determining annual salary increases

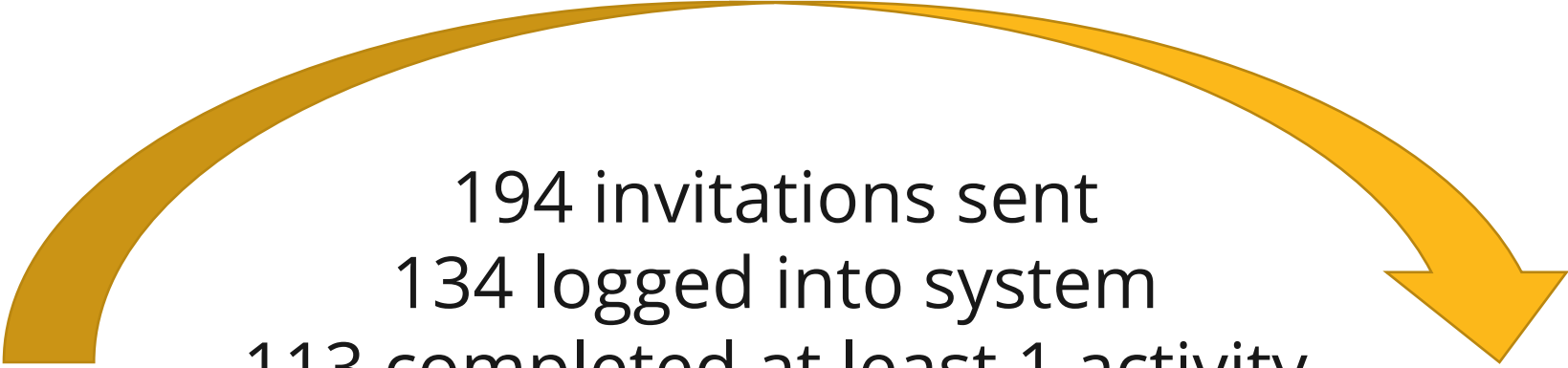
Importance Rating

For each of the statements please select a number from 1 to 7 in terms of how important you think it is compared to the rest of the statements if we want to meaningfully engage youth (like you or the youth you serve) in sexual and reproductive health programs.

Use the following scale (sliding):

1= not important; 7=important

If we want to
meaningfully
engage youth
in SRH
programming,
how
important
would it be
to...

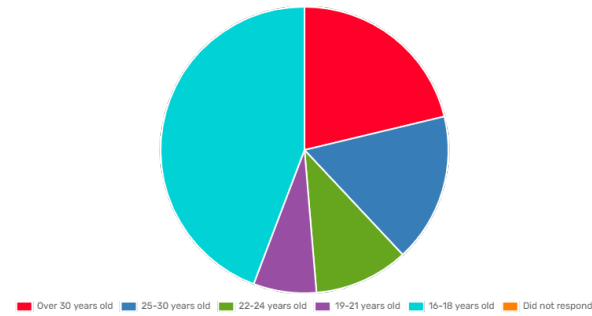


194 invitations sent
134 logged into system
113 completed at least 1 activity

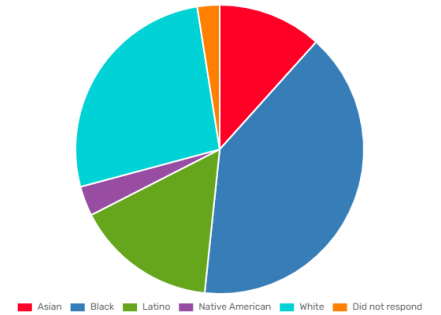
Sorting: $n= 105$

Importance Rating: $n= 109$

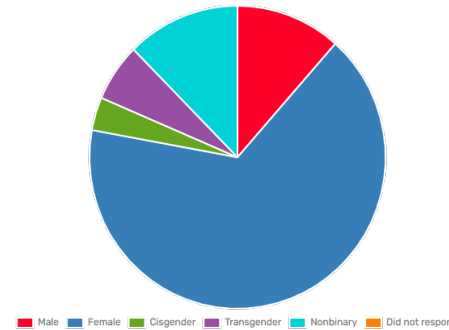
44% were 16-18; half were under 22



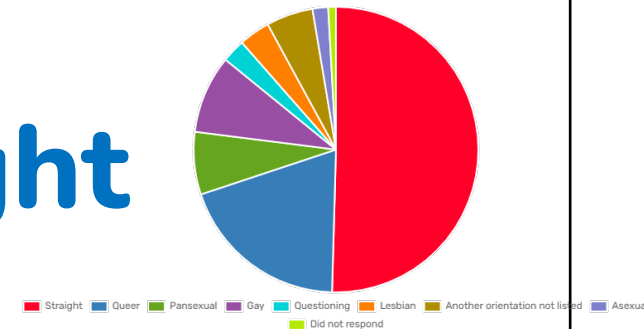
40% were black; 27% were white; 30% reported other ethnicities



66% identify as female



Half identify as straight



Sorting and Rating Results

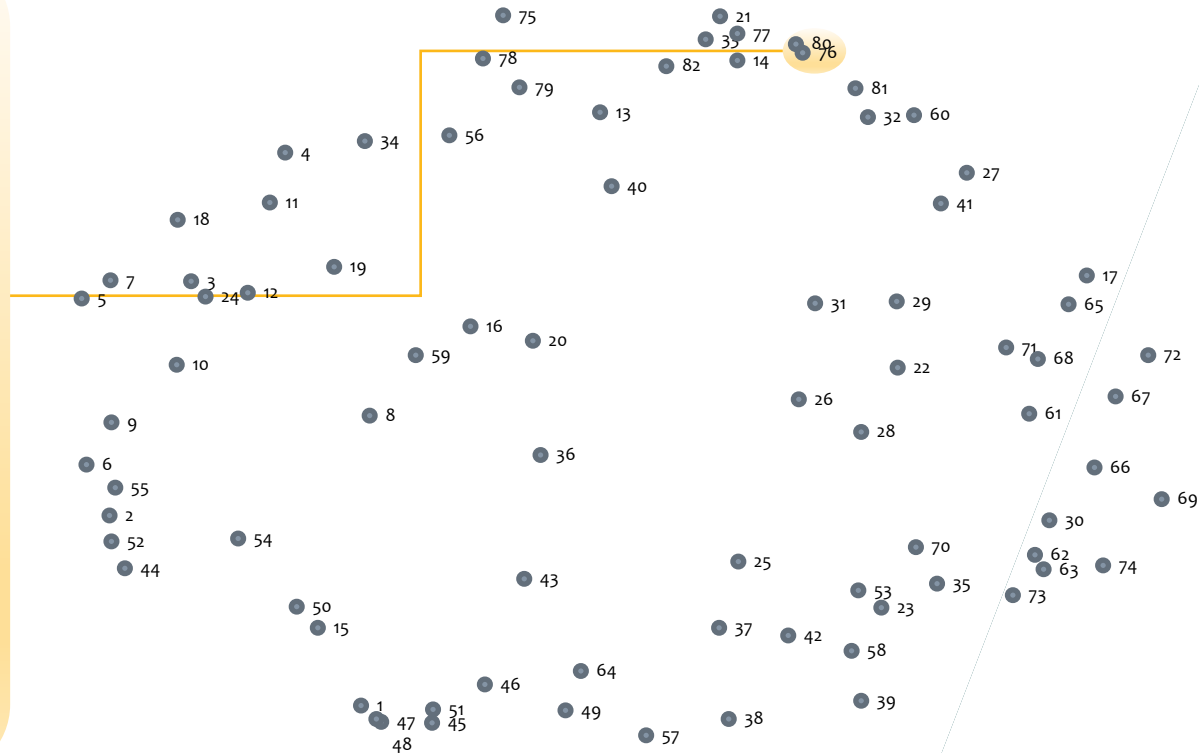
YEN

Point Map

Conceptually similar ideas appear closer together...

76. Talking about sexual pleasure.

80. Discussing how consent relates to personal, boundaries, power, and agency and is part of everyday life, including sex.



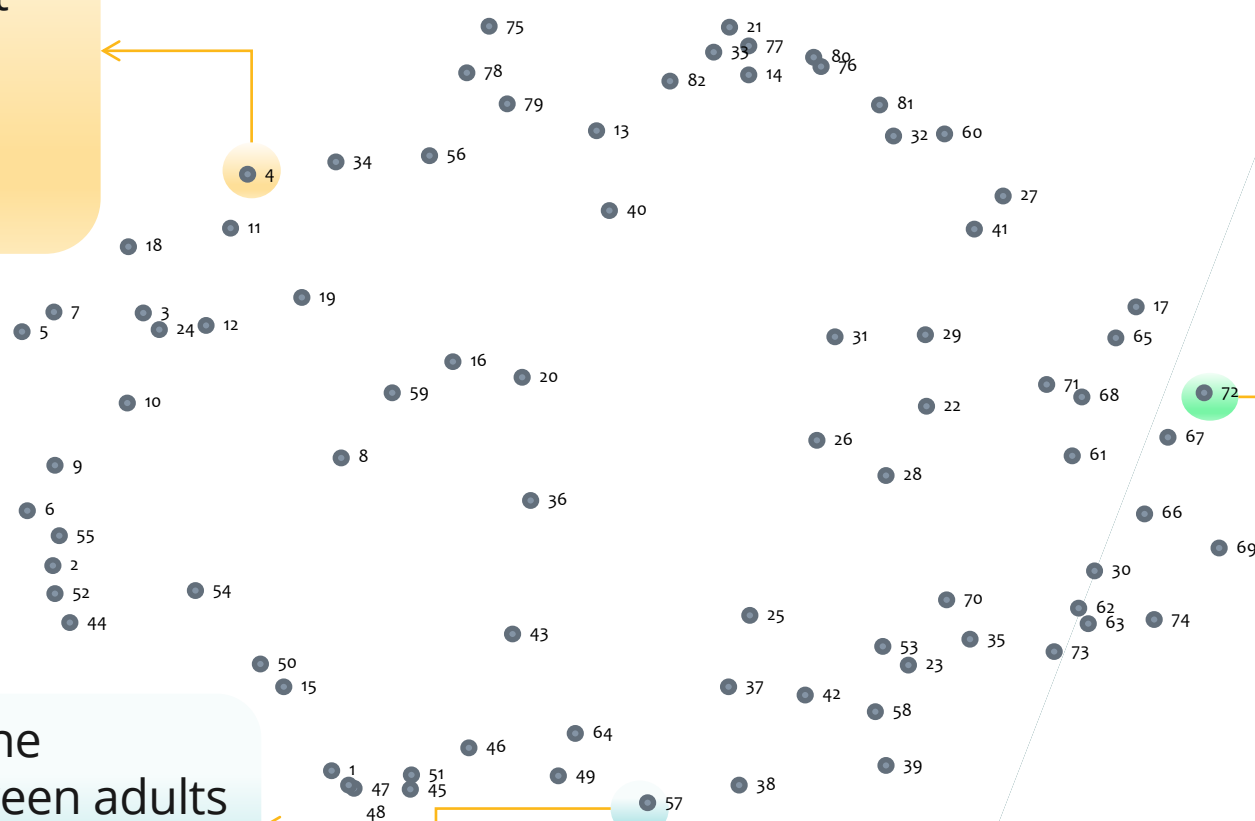
Point Map

Conceptually *different* ideas appear farther apart.

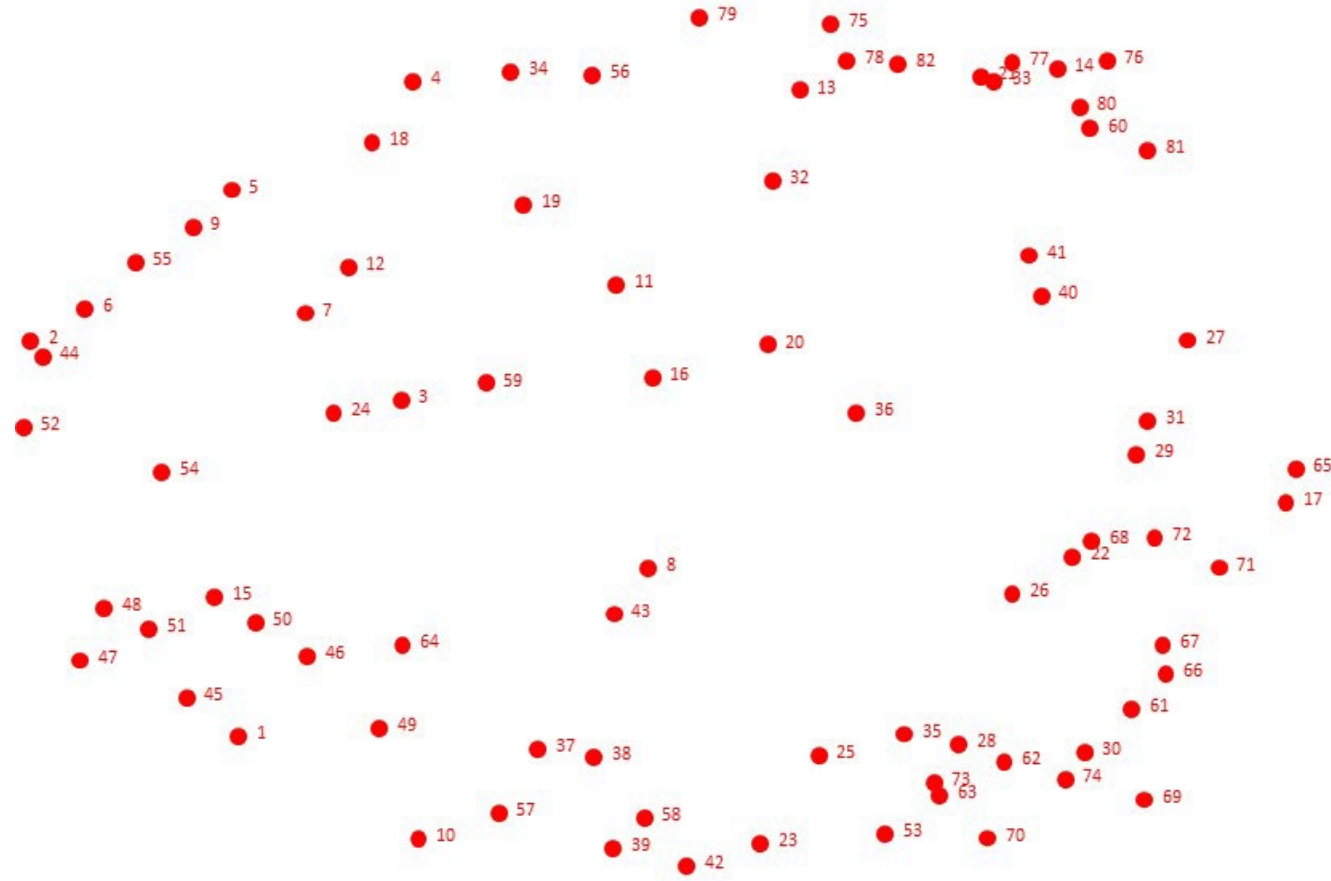
4. Showing films that tackle sexuality topics.

72. Asking youth to identify where they have received impactful sexual health content and collectively analyze why it's impactful.

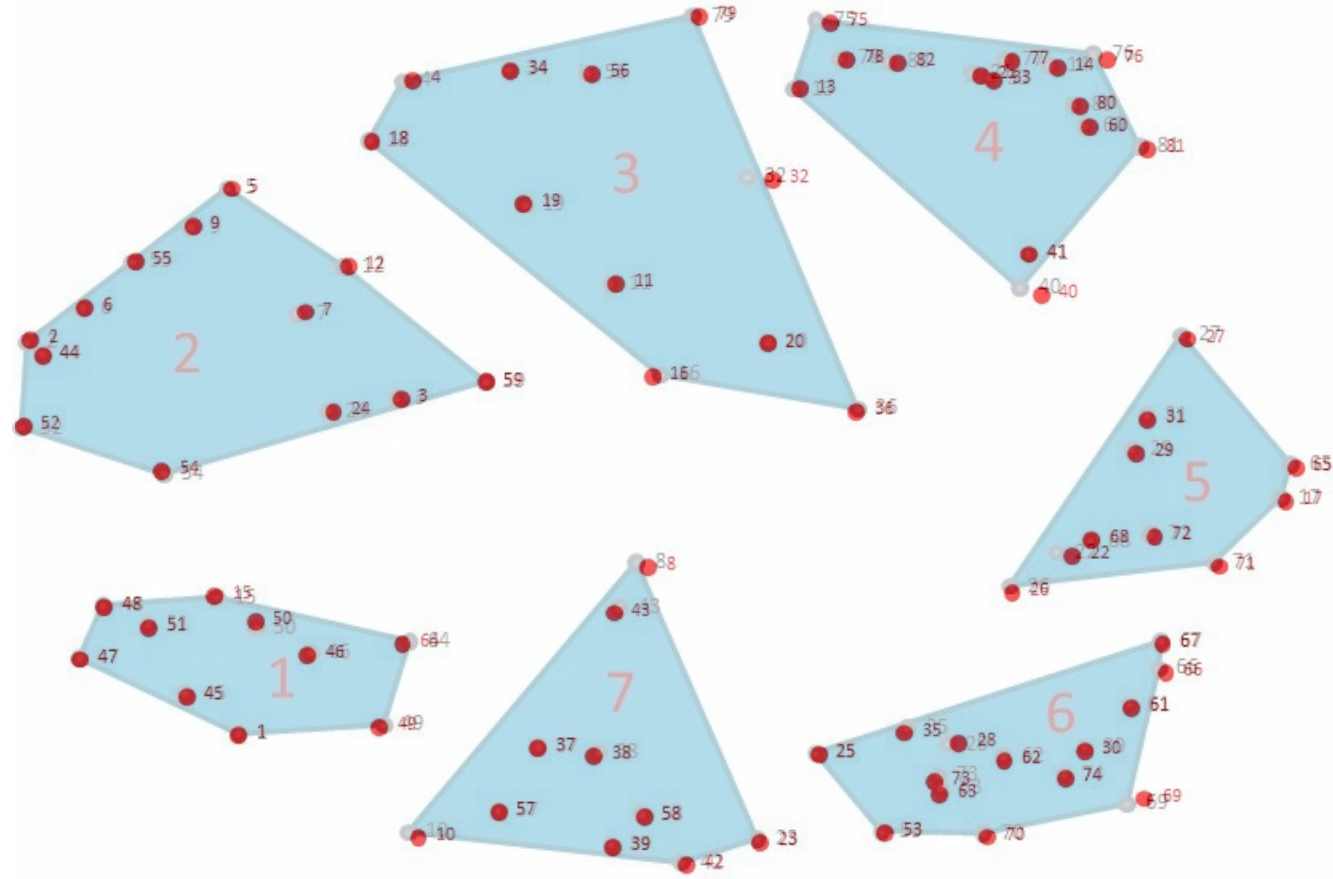
57. Building genuine relationships between adults and youth that are not just program focused.

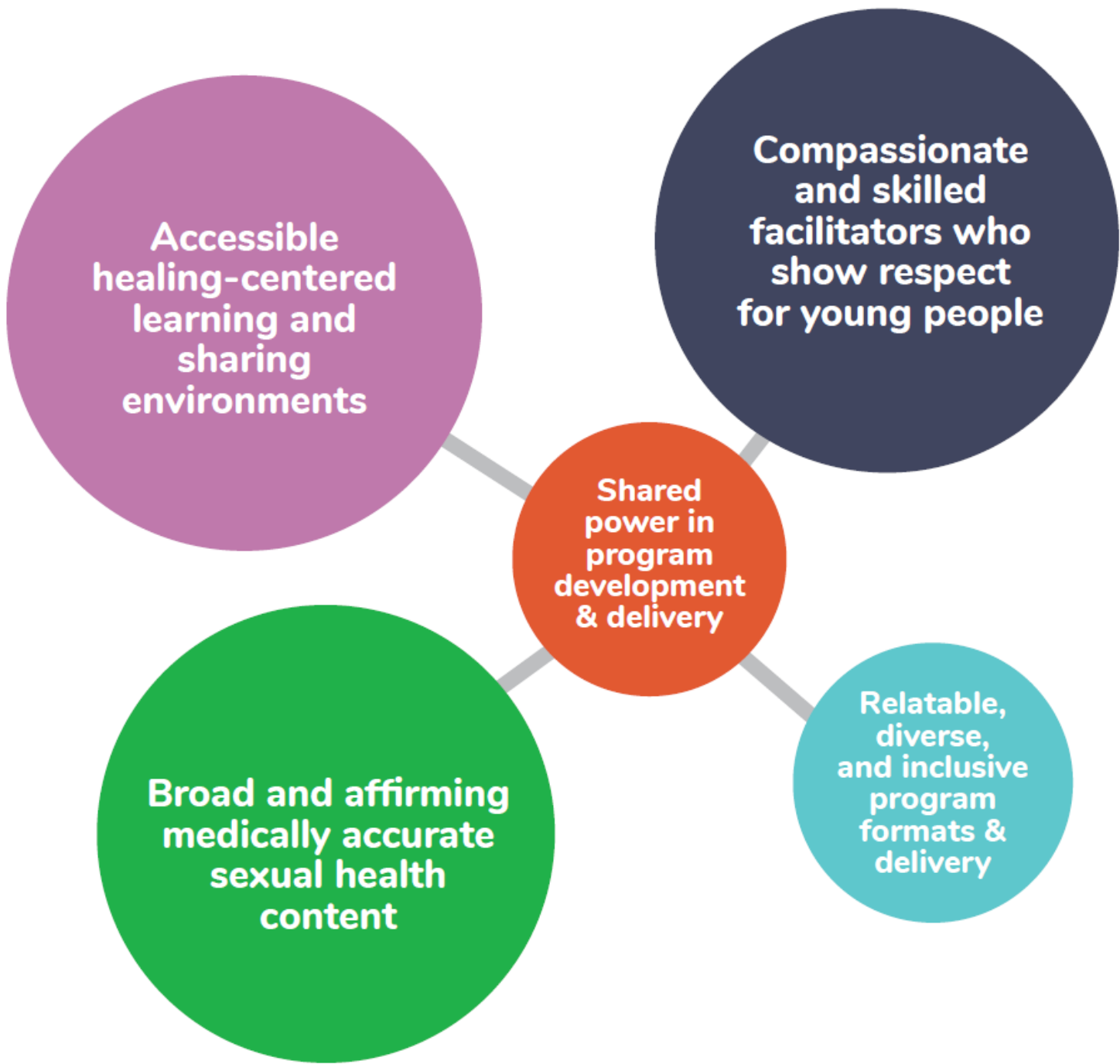


From Point Map



From Point Map -> To Clusters





Five Principles of Meaningful Youth Voice and Engagement in Sexual and Reproductive Health Programming

The Principles

5 practices that foster meaningful engagement of young people in sexual health programming

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Five Principles of Meaningful Youth Voice and Engagement in Sexual and Reproductive Health Programming

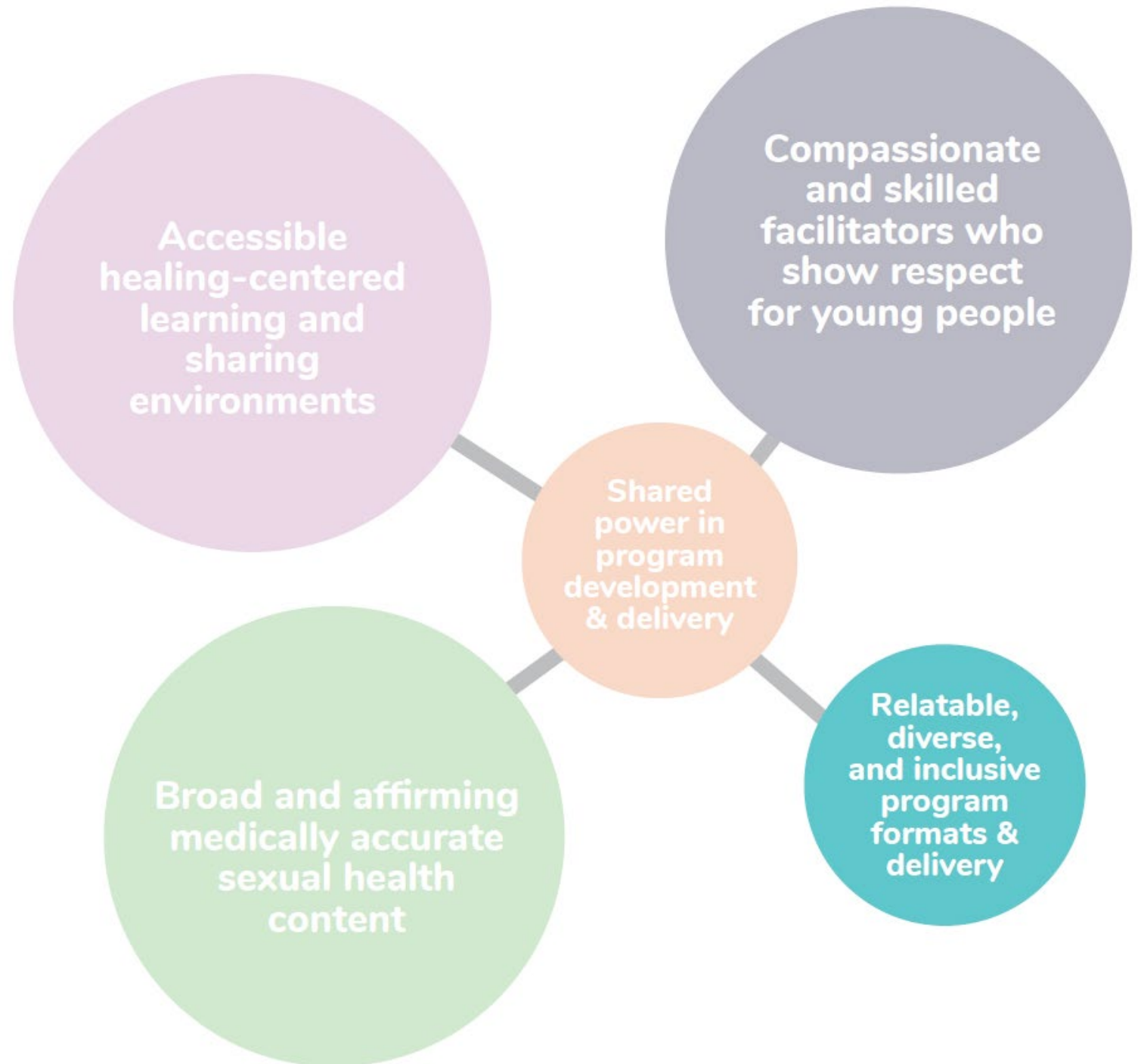
Creating a program environment that is familiar, comfortable, accessible, safe, sensitive to individual needs, and youth-centered to allow for healing and impactful conversations.



Y Identifying facilitators and mentors who are relatable, authentic, and compassionate; are skilled in and comfortable with the program content; show respect for the thoughts and ideas of young people; and are prepared to share power with youth.

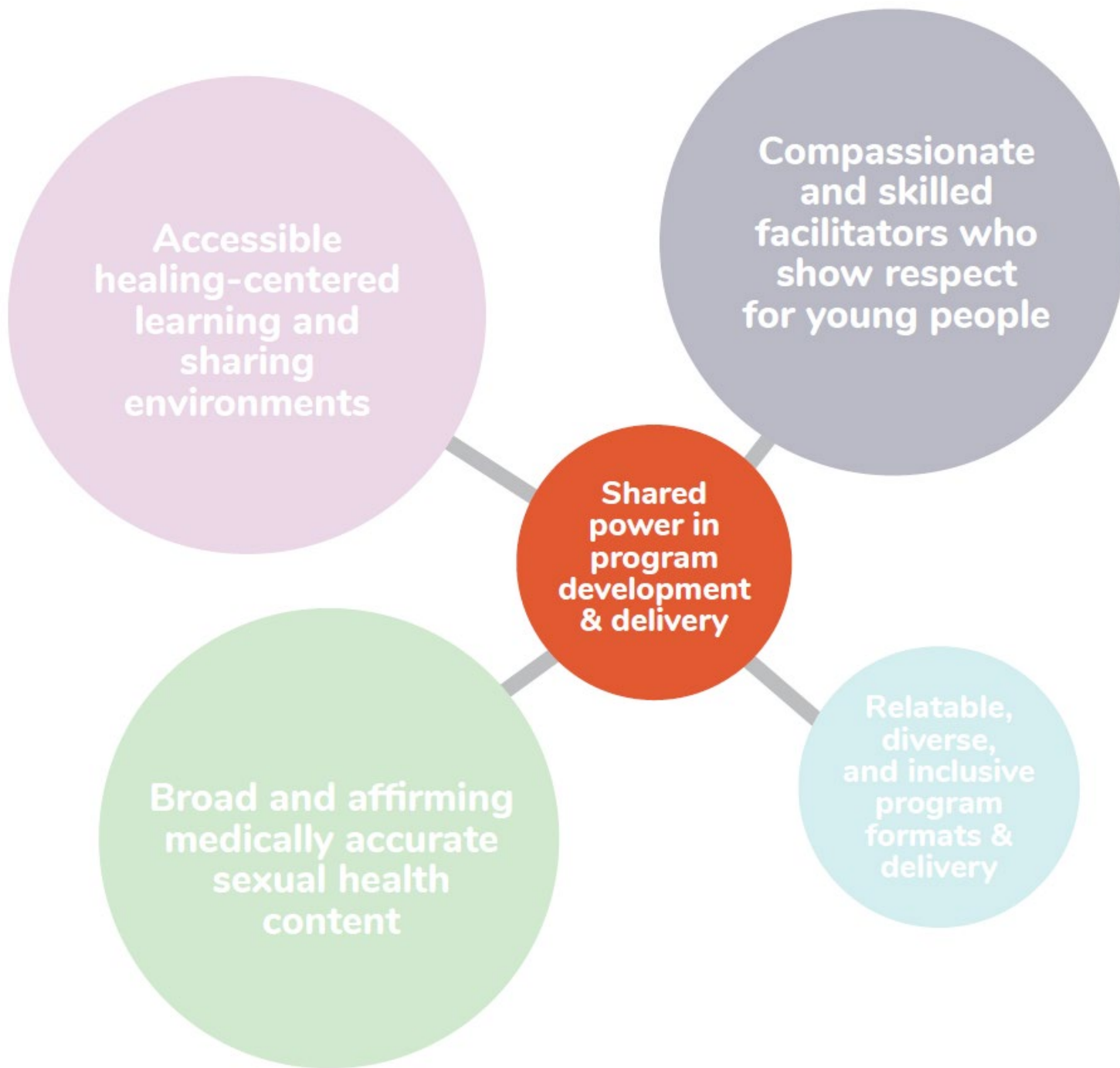


Ensuring program format and materials are diverse, inclusive, and relatable to youth of differing identities and cultures and address the impact of systems of oppression.





Focusing on a broad set of affirming medically accurate sexual health content that goes beyond contraception and the prevention of STIs/pregnancy and encourages youth autonomy and agency in their relationships and sexual wellness.



Centering youth expertise and sharing power in program development and delivery in creative ways that amplify youth voice and choice.





- + Why is this important for youth engagement?
- + What are the barriers?
- + What are some success stories?
- + What are the capacity building needs for young people and adults to move to practice?



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**+Share back on each principle
+How can the principles be
useful to SRH programming
and where do we start?**

If you're interested in Group Concept Mapping...



groupwisdom

conceptsistemas.com

groupwisdom.com

A photograph of two young women laughing joyfully in front of a classical building with columns. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange and purple gradient. The text 'Thank you!' is written in white on the right side.

Thank you!

www.etr.org/yen/
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Please complete a brief evaluation form for all workshops and panels on Tuesday, May 23 and Wednesday, May 24 by scanning the QR code below or visiting the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/SessEval232323>

